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**For Kentucky storm victims**

**State Agencies Offer Recovery Tips**

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** - (January 5, 2000) The joint information center at the state's Emergency Operations Center in Frankfort offers these suggestions to Kentuckians attempting to recover from Monday's outbreak of severe weather.

**Insurance Claims**

The Kentucky Department of Insurance reported today that the largest insurance carriers in Owensboro and western Kentucky have already processed more than 6,000 claims in less than 48 hours.

State Farm has handled 2,500 claims, Kentucky Farm Bureau has handled 2,160 claims including 500 in Owensboro alone, Ohio Casualty Group, 1,000 claims and Allstate, 453. A number of other companies have handled 100 or more each.

The insurance companies immediately activated emergency teams of adjusters. Home and auto owners in Owensboro should be advised that adjusters are having problems getting to the worst-hit neighborhoods because officials still have the areas sealed off for safety reasons. The department advises consumers to understand there may be related delays, but adjusters are standing by to help them with claims as rapidly as is possible.

The Department of Insurance is activating its disaster relief team and will arrive in Owensboro on Thursday to begin assisting consumers, insurance representatives, and adjusters and who need help. The Department of Insurance will coordinate with local emergency management officials at their offices on the second floor of the Daviess County Courthouse. For information contact 1-800-595-6053, ext. 1.

**Clean-up Tips**

Home clean-up guidance is being sent to the Green River District Health Department, serving Daviess, Ohio, Henderson, Hancock, Union, Webster and McLean counties, for distribution to families affected by tornado and flood damage. A nine page handout will be available at local health departments beginning Thursday morning (Jan. 6). Included are tips on water damage recovery for utilities, home cleanup, debris disposal, understanding effects of flood damage to the home, how to handle personal items, disease and injury prevention and minimizing exposure to toxic agents such as lead and asbestos.